

PROCEEDINGS  
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A NEW MUSKRAT FROM THE GREAT PLAINS.

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The muskrat of the Great Plains region of the western United States proves to be one of the best characterized forms in the group.

***Fiber zibethicus cinnamominus* subsp. nov.**

*Type* from Wakeency, Trego County, Kansas. No.  $\frac{3084}{3724}$  Merriam Collection. ♂ adult, skin and skull. Collected by A. B. Baker, January 14, 1887.

*General characters*.—Smaller than *Fiber z. zibethicus* or *Fiber z. osoyoosensis*; larger than *F. z. ripensis*. Coloration pale, with much more reddish in both fresh and washed out pelage than any of these forms. Skull smaller than that of *zibethicus* or *osoyoosensis*, with smaller teeth.

*Color*.—Fresh pelage: Upperparts and sides cinnamon brown, dorsal area only slightly darker, with few black hairs. Nose to forehead and eyes seal brown. Checks and underparts creamy clay color, lighter on neck, throat, and inner sides of legs. A very small brown spot on chin. Feet drab; nails yellowish; tail dark brown. Worn or washed out pelage: Varying from wood brown to russet. Specimens in the short-haired early fall pelage are the darkest, and those in extreme faded early summer coat are the lightest.

*Skull and teeth*.—Skull smaller than that of *Fiber z. zibethicus*, with smaller teeth; larger than that of *F. z. ripensis*. Compared with skulls of *zibethicus* it has a proportionally shorter and heavier rostrum, accompanied by a shortening and widening of the nasals.

*Measurements*.—The type specimen is without flesh measurements. Two other specimens from the type locality measure: Total length, 489; 503; tail vertebrae, 237; 243. Average of hind foot in twenty-one specimens from various localities on the Great Plains, 73.5. Skull of type: Basal length, 55.9 (56.3)\*; zygomatic breadth, 34 (35.5); palatal

\*Measurements in parentheses are the averages of five skulls of adults from the type locality.

length, 35 (35.5); length of nasals, 19.5 (19.5); breadth of nasals, 8.6 (8.9) alveolar length of upper molar series, 14.2 (15).

*Remarks.*—This is the muskrat of the prairie streams and sloughs of the interior Great Plains region. In color it exhibits the maximum amount of reddish, and, with the exception of *Fiber z. pallidus* of Arizona, the minimum amount of black. It intergrades with *Fiber z. zibethicus* and *Fiber z. osoyoosensis* on the borders of the Great Plains. My thanks are due to Dr. C. Hart Merriam for the privilege of describing this form from his collection.

Specimens referable to this subspecies have been examined from southern Manitoba, North and South Dakota, eastern Montana and Wyoming, Nebraska, eastern Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and northern Texas.